



## SHERE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

**Held 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 Tanyard Hall 30 Station Road, Gomshall GU5 9LF**

**Present:** Councillors R Davey (Chairman), C Carlisle, M Keeble, C Brooke, J Hutton, M Taylor-Cotter and J Cross.  
Guildford Borough Council (GBC) Councillor R Morris.  
Surrey County Council (SCC) Councillor B Hughes.  
Clerk S Hoyland, Assistant Clerk S Robins and Drop-in Coordinator J Duffy.  
Twenty-one members of the public.

**Refreshments were served on arrival**

**Attendees were welcomed by the Chairman**

**Apologies for Absence** – Councillors G Reffo, P Carter, B Andrews, P Tompkins and R Smith. GBC Councillor D Jones

### **Report given by the Chairman of Shere Parish Council on the Council's work in the past year**

Chairman Roy Davey began with saying that the [2022/2023 Annual Report](#) will be sent to all households in the coming days. His focus was on what the Parish Council can do, taking into account staffing, money and powers of the Parish Council. Often issues are addressed and then have to be readdressed in order to achieve an ultimate aim, such as banning HGVs from the centre of Shere which has been addressed with SCC in the past, turned down and is now being fought for again. In the meantime, measures have been introduced to try and mitigate problems.

The precept (money collected by GBC on behalf of the Parish council via council tax) for the forthcoming year has been increased by just over 10% but other income that we received via rentals has not increased and we have lost the grant provided by GBC towards the upkeep of the toilets. The majority of the precept was allocated to staffing, Tanyard Hall, grass cutting, general maintenance of property and land, Shere toilets, regular maintenance in the car parks (not including the potential £39,000 bill forthcoming for Shere car park resurfacing), support for maintenance of the cemeteries and highways works (normally the responsibility of Surrey Highways).

The additional income we receive from rentals etc. is vital to allow us to carry out additional projects.

Despite financial pressures the Chairman went on to describe recent successes including:

- Upkeep of the car parks (not including the major resurfacing required)
- Negotiation with SCC for the new bridge in the Swimming Pool field, in keeping with the environment
- Negotiation with SCC was ongoing, for the bus stop opposite the garage in Gomshall to be decommissioned (not affecting the bus routes as The Compasses bus stop can be used) to allow safer car parking when double yellow lines are installed on the bend on Station Road, to improve safety
- Installation of a new log play are in Peaslake Playground
- Replacement of the much-loved play tower in Peaslake with a new piece of equipment to be decided in consultation with local parents from the school
- £5,000 contribution and much chasing to have the Holmbury St Mary traffic works installed, to improve safety
- Installation of five new benches; three replacements for dilapidated benches (50% funding from GBC) and two new ones installed with the help of donations from Shere and Gomshall Gardening Club and Peaslake Gardening Club

- Agreed to lease Peaslake Farm to Friends of the Hurtwood, to protect the fields from commercial development, increase biodiversity and installation of flood protection to slow down water running into the village in times of heavy rain.
- Negotiation with SCC for improvements in the drainage off Ewhurst Road in Peaslake

Chairman Roy Davey concluded his report by saying that the Parish Council was always looking to new initiatives and improvements but these all required money and the Parish Council did not want to increase the precept. He added volunteers were always needed.

### Questions relating to the Chairman's report

**Q. HGVs still need to get to the Coop and Pubs etc.**

- A. The Parish Council is very supportive of the shops and buses and an HGV ban would still allow access but Park Road and New Road are more suitable than the centre of Shere

A member of the public thanked the house adjoining the steps on Queen Street, Gomshall for petitioning for the new steps going up to Gomshall Club car park.

**Q. Clearer marks are needed in Shere car park to stop cars taking up too much space**

- A. When the car park driving surface is replaced, new marking will also be put in

**Q. The speed of vehicles on Queen Street, Gomshall is too fast. they are not going over 30mph but the narrowness of the road makes it feel much faster and more dangerous**

- A. The Parish Council would support 20mph on Queen Street and will try and progress this.

**Q. The virtual path on Queen Street, Gomshall is great but it doesn't go up far enough and vehicles speed to get past the virtual path. Caution walkers sign would be good**

- A. The Parish Council will ask SCC to review it

**Q. The VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) is defective on Queen Street**

- A. That VAS is the property of SCC and we are waiting to have it fixed, our contact at SCC is currently unwell. The Parish Council is purchasing another new VAS in the next financial year, which will allow more flexibility

Chairman Roy Davey thanked and presented a card and flowers to Councillor Candace Brooke, who is stepping down at the elections in May. Candace had been on the council for 21 years and had been dedicated and proactive in her time as councillor and will be missed.

### Chairman Roy Davey handed over to Jonathan Duffy

**A Short talk was given by guest speaker: Jonathan Duffy, Shere Parish Council Drop-in Coordinator**

**Topic – The Activities of the Drop-in Centre and the NEW Village Larder** – It was well received and for full information on both activities please see the PowerPoint below:

<https://www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Drop-In-Centre-Food-bank-Parish-Council-Meeting-1.pdf>

### Questions relating to the talk

**Q. Could you include pet food?**

- A. Yes, that could be included

**Q. Are there others elsewhere and have there been any evidence of problems elsewhere?**

- A. There are more elsewhere, such as Westcott and there haven't been any problems

**Q. Could finance be sought from Coronation grants available?**

A. Jonathan Duffy said he would investigate

**Q. Is the lack of transport a barrier to people attending the Drop-in?**

A. Yes, it is a massive barrier. There are currently four volunteers who are self-organising but more volunteers are needed

Chairman Roy Davey thanked Jonathan for the presentation and asked that members of the public spread the word about the Drop-in and Village Larder and encourage anyone to come along or volunteer.